

Rural Sanitary District of Whitechurch, Hants.

Area, 30,609 Acres; Population, 5658 (1891).

❧ ANNUAL REPORT ❧

For the Year ended December 31st, 1900.

REGISTERED BIRTHS:

Whitechurch District, 71 ; Workhouse, 1 ...	...	...	72
Overton District ...	...	...	47
St. Mary Bourne District ...	...	...	32
Total ...	...	...	151

DEATHS:

Whitechurch District, 36 ; Workhouse, 6 ...	...	...	42
Isolation Hospital ...	...	...	0
Overton District ...	...	...	21
St. Mary Bourne District ...	...	...	15
Total ...	...	...	78

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

Whitechurch District ...	...	...	7
Overton District ...	...	...	9
St. Mary Bourne District ...	...	...	0
Total ...	...	...	16

Comparing this with the previous year we have:—

BIRTHS:

	1899.	1900.
Whitechurch District ...	85	71
Workhouse ...	0	1
Overton District ...	57	47
St. Mary Bourne District ...	27	32
Total ...	169	151

DEATHS:

Whitechurch District ...	27	36
Workhouse ...	2	6
Isolation Hospital ...	0	0
Overton District ...	26	21
St. Mary Bourne District ...	9	15
Total ...	64	78

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

Whitechurch District ...	5	7
Overton District ...	8	9
St. Mary Bourne District ...	1	0
Total ...	14	16

DEATH RATES:

	1899.	1900.
General ...	11·3	13·7
Infant Mortality ...	82·8	105·9

BIRTH RATES PER 1000 OF POPULATION:—1899, 29·8; 1900, 26·6.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, adopted February, 1890, shows the following results :—

NEW CASES OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

WHITCHURCH DISTRICT :					1900.	1899.
Searlet Fever	...	...	...	...	2	12
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2	10
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2	7
Total				...	6	29
Workhouse	...	...	...	...	0	0
OVERTON DISTRICT :						
Searlet Fever	...	...	...	...	8	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2	1
Total				...	10	6
ST. MARY BOURNE DISTRICT :						
Searlet Fever	...	...	...	...	19	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0	1
Peurperal Fever	...	...	...	...	0	1
Total				...	19	6
TOTAL IN SANITARY AREA					35	41
DEATHS FROM NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES :						
1900	St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	2 (Scarlet Fever).	
1899	...	...	...	...	Nil	whole District.

THE COMMENCEMENT of the year 1900 found us in the midst of an epidemic of *Scarlet Fever*, which, as stated in the last Report, had shown itself in various parts of the District without any evident cause and without known connection with other cases in the District, though it was in some instances thought to have connection with cases in neighbouring sanitary areas, and at this time we were unable to admit some of the cases from lack of accommodation in the Isolation Hospital, though they were admitted later. In January two cases were notified in one family at an outlying part of the Overton District, and these were treated at home. Nine cases were also notified from various parts of the St. Mary Bourne District between January 1st and February 2nd, two of them proving fatal before they could be admitted to the Hospital. Of these nine cases one was at Lower Wyke, two in the same family at Stoke (one fatal), five in the same family at Middle Wyke, and one at Link, which was isolated at home. On February 28th a further case was notified at a cottage in the village of St. Mary Bourne, and on March 17th another child of the same family. In this instance a previous case had been notified on December 7th, and admitted to the Hospital on December 8th, remaining there till January 26th. The first of these latter cases was admitted on the 2nd March, and the other on the 19th. Then came an interval till May 5th and 7th, when five cases were notified in one family (the mother and four children, ages 5, 10, 12, and 16 years) in one of two new isolated cottages at Breach, near St. Mary Bourne. These were all admitted to the Hospital on May 8th. On May 29th the mistress of the National Schools at Overton was notified, and removed to the Hospital the same day, and on the 30th a child in Bridge Street, Overton, removed the same day, there being no known connection between the two cases. On June 7th a case was notified at the same house at St. Mary Bourne from which the cases of December 7th, February 28th, and March 17th had been removed, the two last returning home April 27th, the house having been thoroughly disinfected by the Inspector of Nuisances immediately after each removal, which has been the invariable practice in all cases. On June 21st a case was notified at New Barn Cottages in the District of Whitchurch, and near St. Mary Bourne, a farm labourer, aged 19 years, removed to the Hospital on the 22nd. On June 30th a case occurred at the Post Office, St. Mary Bourne, removed to Hospital July 1st. On August 25th a case was again notified at Overton, and removed on 27th; this child had recently come from Portsmouth. On November 1st another case occurred at Overton, and a second in the same family on the 25th, both removed to the hospital on 1st and 26th respectively. On November 30th a young woman in a large family at Eggbury, in the St. Mary Bourne District, was notified and admitted to Hospital the same day. On December 16th a case occurred in a young woman, 17 years, in Bell Street, Whitchurch,

removed to Hospital on 17th, this being the first case of scarlet fever known to have occurred in Whitchurch itself since February, 1897, which is remarkable seeing that it has been on all sides of the town. Probably the speedy removal of cases to the Isolation Hospital has been the means of preventing its introduction and spread in the town. The origin of this case is obscure, but certain insanitary conditions from accumulation of manure, &c., in the neighbourhood of the room in which she worked were found to exist. On December 23rd another case occurred in Overton, removed on 24th. It will be seen from the foregoing that although we have had this troublesome infectious disease present with us, more or less, throughout the year in epidemic form, it has in no part assumed the proportions of a serious outbreak, but has been characterised by a succession of cases occurring at irregular intervals, which doubtless but for the advantages of the Isolation Hospital would have developed in a much more extensive and aggravated form. In all cases children from infected houses have been kept from school and disinfection of houses resorted to. In all 29 cases have been notified during the year, 24 of which were admitted to the Hospital, two were unable to be admitted, two died at home, and one isolated at home. In addition to these 24 five of the cases occurring in December, 1899, were admitted in January, making a total of 29 admissions during the year 1900.

DIPHTHERIA was notified in two cases in the Whitchurch District, one on September 4th at Laverstoke, an adult who had recently returned ill from a visit to Ilfracombe, and the other a child in Whitchurch on September 11th. Both were admitted to the Hospital on the 5th and 11th respectively, and these, with the 29 scarlet fever cases, make a total of 31 patients treated in the Hospital, which was only empty during the year for a short time on three occasions, viz., from April 27th to May 8th, August 20th to 27th, and October 8th to November 1st.

WHOOPING COUGH was prevalent in April and May.

MEASLES of mild type was also prevalent in Whitchurch in May and June, and in Hurstbourne Priors in June and July. In consequence of the large number of scholars attacked by whooping cough and measles, and one of the teachers being affected with whooping cough, I recommended the National Schools in Whitchurch to be closed for three weeks from May 24th, and those in Hurstbourne Priors in July. I also recommended the National Schools at Overton to be closed from May 29th to June 13th in consequence of the mistress being attacked with scarlet fever, and residing in the School House with the mistress of the Infant Schools, disinfection of Schools, School House, and premises being resorted to, the result being no spread of the diseases.

THE EPIDEMIC OF INFLUENZA, which was stated in the last Report to be prevalent in November and December, was very general in all districts in January and February, though declining in the latter, and there were many cases of *Pneumonia* and *Bronchitis* associated with it, and prevalent till the end of April. Of the eight deaths attributed to it three occurred in the Workhouse, two of them being 78 and 80 years of age respectively, and the third a man of enfeebled constitution associated with *Bronchitis* and *Atrophy*. The first half of the year may be characterised as a time of much sickness, and the last as far more healthy.

With regard to the Sanitary condition of the Rural District, as regards drainage and water supply, you are fully aware there is no proper system of sewerage in any part, but in the more populous parts drains and gutters have been laid for the conveyance of surface water, usually to the river. Into these drains and gutters a good deal of foul material from the road finds its way, and also slop water from sinks and back premises, there being in many instances no means of getting rid of these things since the pollution of soil and wells by the old and pernicious system of slop holes and cesspools has been so effectually discouraged, but in no instance does any closet connect with these drains. The gutters in some instances are flat and have not much run, and become blocked with paper and straw blown in from the roads, allowing accumulation which at times is offensive, especially if the cleansing is not sufficiently attended to by the scavenger of the locality, which was especially the case in Bridge Street, Overton, where the gutter was ordered to be regularly cleansed and improved. The latter, however, is not yet done, as the season has been unfavourable for it. This gutter has a good fall, and there are two public pumps in its course, so that cleansing and flushing should be an easy matter. In Whitchurch cleansing is more difficult in some streets on account of the little fall, and though the scavenger attends to these regularly twice or three times a week it is often desirable it should be done daily.

The Water supply of the district is by wells and tube pumps, the latter being on the increase, and several in parts of the District have been provided by the Sanitary Authority for the public use. The water from the latter has all been tested and found good with one exception, where the pump is out of repair, but its loss is unimportant, as it has been used of late chiefly as a plaything by children. Owners of property do not pay sufficient attention to the covering of their wells, which is often found dilapidated and admitting surface water; when inspection discloses these defects notice is given to the owners to remedy them.

THE DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT in the District is mainly on the pail system or cemented vaults, the contents of which are ordered to be emptied at regular intervals by the scavengers appointed for Whitechurch and Overton and carted away. In some instances this has not been so well attended to as desired, and at Overton especially has been a cause of complaint. It was hoped that the pail system might be carried out on the dry principle, but this has been found to be practically impossible, for in the majority of cases there is neither dry earth nor ashes to be had, and where they have them the people are generally too indifferent to use them, the result being a pail filthy and disgusting. Again, many owners will not provide suitable receptacles for the closets, often too small for the families and otherwise unsuitable; but this has been endeavoured to be remedied by a recommendation of the Sanitary Authority that the Inspector of Nuisances should give notice to replace inefficient and defective pails by those of an approved pattern. With all its defects, however, the pail system has been beneficial to the public health by doing away with nearly all the old privy pits and the consequent pollution of soil and water.

PIGGERIES near dwellings have almost entirely disappeared in the District through the action of the Sanitary Authority in the last few years, and should not be allowed to be reintroduced.

A SLAUGHTER-HOUSE at St. Mary Bourne was found to be in a bad state, and the premises generally in an insanitary condition. I advised a thorough cleansing and repair and abatement of all nuisances, failing which that it should be closed, the result being much improvement.

A SLAUGHTER-HOUSE in Winchester Street, Whitechurch, was found to be in a bad condition and to require cleaning and improvement when inspected in June; in November it was again found in a bad state and the premises generally dirty, and drainage and refuse allowed to go into the river. I advised reconstruction and improvement of premises, and the drainage and refuse to be kept out of the river, failing this that it should be closed. This work is in progress and in the hands of the Inspector of Nuisances to see carried out.

With regard to COWSHEDS, one near Winchester Street, Whitechurch, is old and dilapidated and the yard in bad condition. I recommended improvements or a new building, preferably the latter, and it is hoped this may be arranged in the spring. At a Cowshed in Church Street, Whitechurch, the drinking vessels of the Cows were found in bad condition and to require cleaning. More attention in future recommended.

THE BAKEHOUSES were inspected. One at St. Mary Bourne was ordered to be improved and repaired and the drainage and floor made good. One in Newbury Street, Whitechurch, to be cleaned and repaired and refuse removed from its neighbourhood. One in London Street to be improved by cleaning gutters and premises and better closet accommodation provided both for this and the adjoining premises; and another in London Street to be cleansed and whitewashed. This was carried out under supervision of the Inspector of Nuisances.

THE GAS WORKS in Whitechurch were again a great nuisance and much complained of, especially in May, June and July, people at a considerable distance having to close their windows to keep out the foul air and stench, and people living near have gone out of their houses to get a breath of fresh air. This, after correspondence by the District Council with the Directors, has been again abated; but it is evident some fresh legislation is required to protect the Public from the recurrence of such Nuisances. I have made frequent inspections ^{of the District} during the year, both separately and in conjunction with the Inspector of Nuisances, with whom I have been in almost daily communication. Many houses have been repaired, whitewashed, and put into a more sanitary condition, both inside and outside, under our joint supervision, special attention being paid to the Closets, which are often found in bad condition, dilapidated, and draughty, and it is recommended that a separate Closet be provided for each house, as where these are used by more than one family they are seldom properly attended to as regards cleanliness. There are still many old and dilapidated cottages, especially in Whitechurch, some of which are now under repair, and others will require to be dealt with later if not in the meantime put into better order by their owners. Two which were uninhabited at Overton have been closed, also one at Charlcot, in the Whitechurch District. The houses and premises in the neighbourhood of the Great Lane in Whitechurch require special attention from the Inspector of Nuisances, as well as those of the Waterloo and parts of the Lynch. The delay in getting improvements carried out is the cause of much trouble to the Inspector of Nuisances, and this is sometimes to be attributed to the fault of the work people. The need of better and more commodious dwellings and surroundings for the poor cannot be too strongly emphasized.

DISINFECTANTS have been supplied where required, and the use of a Formalin Lamp for the disinfection of houses and clothing has been found satisfactory; but in the Hospital carbolic acid has been mainly used for vaporization.

Much good work has been done by the Sanitary Authority for many years, with a result that nearly all the old bad places have been done away with.

The following is the Report by the Inspector of Nuisances and Summary of Work carried out under his supervision by order of the District Council and Medical Officer of Health :—

Cottages Whitewashed and Repaired	...	...	...	42
Cottages Disinfected ...	...	...	...	28
Wells Cleaned Out ...	...	...	...	5
Wells, New Kerbs and Repaired	...	...	...	6
Certificates Granted for Water Supply for 17 Houses	...	...	...	10
Public Pumps Repaired	...	...	...	6
Closets, New and Repaired and Improved	...	...	...	16
Pigs Removed by Order	...	...	...	5
Pig Styes Cleansed by Order	...	...	...	8
Drains Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...	10
Dead Wells Cleaned Out	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses Inspected	...	...	...	13
Cowsheds and Dairies Inspected	...	...	...	12
Dairy and Cowsheds Registered	...	...	...	1
Slaughter-houses Inspected	...	...	...	6
" " New	...	...	...	1
" " Improved	...	...	...	2
Workshops Cleansed and Whitewashed	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding Abated	...	...	...	2
Bedding Disinfected ...	...	...	...	28
River Courses Cleaned Out	...	...	...	2

The greatest part of the Cottages are occupied by the Working Classes, and have been repaired, cleansed, and otherwise improved and made more wholesome and more fit for occupation. The surroundings have in many cases been improved by removal of refuse, filling up of slopholes, and improved drainage.

Several Pits to Closets have been filled up and made on the pail system. The Nuisance arising from pigs being kept near dwelling houses and other unsuitable places have been very much abated.

The Bakehouses have been inspected, and cleansing and whitewashing have been done where necessary.

The Slaughter-houses have been under constant supervision; one new one has been provided and others much improved.

The whole of the District has been under constant and careful supervision; there have been 310 inspections and visits made in the District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY HEMSTED,

Medical Officer of Health,

R.S.D., Whitelchurch, Hants.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WHITCHURCH, HANTS,

January 23rd, 1901.

TABLE I.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.
(For Whole District.)

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1890	5458	171	31·3	30	175·4	135	24·7	15	No INFORMATION.			
1891	5658	175	30·9	17	97·1	93	16·4	10				
1892	5658	148	26·1	28	189·1	115	20·3	8				
1893	5658	227	40·1	22	96·9	83	14·6	8				
1894	5658	186	32·8	21	112·9	97	17·1	3				
1895	5658	190	33·5	18	94·7	87	15·4	11				
1896	5658	169	29·8	16	94·2	71	12·5	5				
1897	5658	174	30·7	22	126·4	95	16·7	12				
1898	5658	182	32·1	25	137·3	95	16·7	10				
1899	5658	169	29·8	14	82·8	64	11·3	2				
Averages for years 1890—1899	5638	179·1	31·71	21·3	120·68	93·5	16·37	8·4				
1900	5658	151	26·6	16	105·9	78	13·7	6				

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—30,609.

Total population at all ages (at Census of 1891)—5658.

TABLE II.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				WHITCHURCH DISTRICT AND WORKHOUSE.				OVERTON DISTRICT.				ST. MARY BOURNE DISTRICT.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1890 ...	5458	171	135	30	2749	79	74	14	1631	56	38	13	1078	36	23	3
1891 ...	5658	175	93	17	2958	90	52	11	1668	66	30	4	1032	19	11	2
1892 ...	5658	148	115	28	2958	69	69	15	1668	54	26	10	1032	25	20	3
1893 ...	5658	227	83	22	2958	124	46	11	1668	63	16	6	1032	40	21	5
1894 ...	5658	186	97	21	2958	93	55	14	1668	58	24	4	1032	35	18	3
1895 ...	5658	190	87	18	2958	86	46	11	1668	67	20	5	1032	37	21	2
1896 ...	5658	169	71	16	2958	77	35	8	1668	66	21	5	1032	26	15	3
1897 ...	5658	174	95	22	2958	86	52	8	1668	59	25	11	1032	29	18	3
1898 ...	5658	182	95	25	2958	71	49	6	1668	80	34	14	1032	31	12	5
1899 ...	5658	169	64	14	2958	85	29	5	1668	57	26	8	1032	27	9	1
Averages of Years 1890 to 1899 ...	5638	179.1	93.5	21.3	2937.1	86	50.7	10.3	1664.3	62.6	26	8	1036.6	30.5	16.8	3
1900 ...	5658	151	78	16	2958	72	42	7	1668	47	21	9	1032	32	15	0

TABLE III.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Whitchurch District.	Overton District.	St. Mary Bourne District.	Whitchurch District.	Overton District.	St. Mary Bourne District.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Diphtheria ...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	4	...	...	1	...	3	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	29	...	6	17	4	2	...	2	8	19	2	6	17
Totals ...	35	...	6	19	4	6	...	6	10	19	2	6	17

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).			DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Whitchurch District.	Overton District.	St. Mary Bourne District.	
Scarlet Fever ...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ...	8	1	...	...	...	3	4	6	1	1	3
Diarrhoea ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Enteritis ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Phthisis ...	6	1	...	...	...	4	1	5	...	1	1
Other tubercular diseases	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	5	...	...	...	...	2	3	2	1	2	...
Bronchitis ...	15	4	3	...	...	1	7	7	5	3	...
Pneumonia ...	3	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of Liver }	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Heart diseases ...	9	...	...	...	...	5	4	6	2	1	1
All other causes...	22	7	...	1	...	6	8	9	10	3	1
All causes ...	78	16	5	5	...	22	30	42	21	15	6